

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/665,827	PATTERSON, GREGORY WAYNE	
	Examiner Joseph Lauture	Art Unit 2819	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to correspondence filed 09/17/2003.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. The drawings filed on 17 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 91703
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Amendments To The Claims

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard Koppel on 07/29/2004.

Cancel claim 20.

In claims 2 and 8, lines 2 respectively, replace "a respective one" with --
respective ones--.

In claims 2 and 8, lines 3-4 respectively, delete "that amplifier's respective
second end" and insert – the respective second string ends driven by said
amplifier--.

In claims 3 and 9, lines 3 respectively, after "and", insert -- said --.

In claims 6 and 12, lines 2 respectively, delete ";" and insert --: --.

In claims 6 and 12, lines 4 respectively, delete "and" and insert -- said first input
comprising--.

In claims 6 and 12, lines 5-6 respectively, delete "that provide said first input
terminals and".

In claim 13, line 14, delete "and alters it in response", and insert -- in the absence
of said out-of-range signal, and in response to the presence of said out-of-range signal,
provides said feedback signal as an overdrive protection signal for said amplifier--.

Amendment To The Specification

On page 3, line 9; and on page 7, line 11: replace “the invention” with --one embodiment of the invention--.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior arts of record fail to teach an analog-to-digital converter, comprising: first and second strings each formed with at least one impedance element; at least one current source coupled to a first end of at least one of said first and second strings; at least one comparator coupled to provide a comparator output signal in response to signals at first and second string taps that are respectively positioned along said first and second strings; first and second differential amplifiers that have first input terminals which together define a differential input port, that have second input terminals that are each coupled through a respective feedback path to a feedback tap positioned between the first and second ends of a respective one of said first and second strings, and that are each coupled to drive a second end of a respective one of said first and second strings; and a decoder coupled to provide an output digital code in response to said comparator output signal..

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

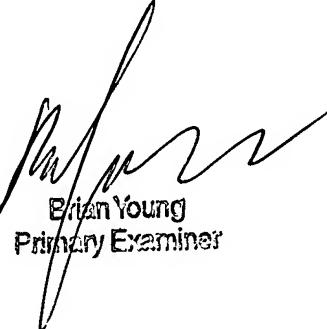
CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Lauture, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1805. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday between 9:30 am and 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Tokar can be reached at (571) 272-1812. The fax number for the organization to which this application is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

Joseph Lauture
Group: 2819
Date: 07/28/2004



Brian Young
Primary Examiner